

DATE: April 22, 2021**FILE:** 1850-20/2021**TO:** Chair and Directors
Regional District Board**FROM:** Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative OfficerSupported by Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer**R. Dyson****RE: Rural Community Grants – 2021 Additional Information**

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to respond to Electoral Area Directors request to present additional information on applications for the 2021 Rural Community Grants.

Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:

THAT the requested additional rural community grants submission information outlined in the staff report dated April, 2021 be received.

Note: *Electoral Areas Services Committee member's may make additional motions to include additional funding for organizations through Rural Community Grants.*

Executive Summary

- At the April 12, 2021 Electoral Areas Service Committee meeting a staff report was presented for committee consideration of a number of Rural Community Grants applications.
- The Committee requested additional information pertaining to the submissions from the following organizations:
 - Denman Island Old School Committee
 - Friends of Strathcona Park
 - Guardians of mid-island estuary society
 - Roy Creek Salmonid Enhancement Society
- If upon receipt of this additional information directors wish to provide rural community grant funds to one or more of these organizations, a supplementary motion would be required such as “THAT the 2021 Rural Community Grants be awarded for the amounts to the organizations as follow ____”

Prepared by:

D. DeMarzo

Doug DeMarzo
General Manager of Community Services

Prepared by:

K. Douville

Kevin Douville
Manager of Financial Planning

Background/Current Situation

Denman Island Old School Committee

A request for \$8,425 was made for modifications to the Old School House to support bat activity. The Old School House belongs to Islands Trust and is leased to Denman Island Residents and Ratepayers Association. As such maintenance and upgrade activities to support bat activity should be supported by the building owner especially in the case of local government or senior government ownership. As a result the committee members could still support a partial contribution for Bat Stewardship for a requested amount of \$1,725.

Friends of Strathcona Park

An application of \$10,000 was made to support a study for improved accessibility to Strathcona Park including studying additional vehicular access points and trails within the park. As Strathcona Park is a provincial entity it would not be appropriate to support the senior level government service. However, staff reached out to the Friends of Strathcona Park and offered assistance for vehicular accesses within in the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) region through the CVRD parks service this summer possibly utilizing CVRD summer students. Additionally some co-ordinated planning around trail connectivity outside the boundary of the park could be considered.

Guardians of Mid-Island Estuary

An application for \$5,000 was made to support Canada Goose Egg addling in the Estuary and training of KFN Guardians. The committee sought additional information regarding KFN support. The following information was provided.

1. We (Guardians of Mid-Island Estuary) work with Cory Frank - Manager of the KFN Guardians Watchmen Department. Cory, as manager of this program, is in charge of actively protecting and rejuvenating critical salmonid habitat within the K'omoks Estuary, on behalf of the K'omoks First Nation with endorsement of the Chief and Council. Furthermore, KFN Band Administration has approved this work and supports the cooperative working relationship between the KFN Guardians Watchmen and the Guardians of Mid-Island Estuaries.

2. Cory Frank-Manager of KFN Guardians Watchmen Department has agreed for all members of his department to be trained in the science of egg addling for the purpose of managing all Canada goose nests found in the K'omoks estuary and any other lands managed by the KFN Guardians Watchmen Department.

We can also state that so far we have found 50 nests in the Baynes Sound area where KFN Guardian watchmen have already started training with us. In a few days we will be going out for our second visit to previously identified nests and will be scouting for new nests as well with KFN Guardians along for further training.

An early disbursement of funds, as per the application package, would help us quite a bit as the work will be completed mainly by early May.

John Cooper, President, Guardians of Mid-Island Estuaries Society

Roy Creek Salmonid Enhancement Society (RCSES)

An application for \$9,000 was received from the Roy Creek Salmonid Enhancement Society to support required minor to major repairs to their water intake and hatchery and related infrastructure located in both Royston and Cumberland. RCSES is a volunteer organization that has operated a hatchery just outside of Cumberland since 1981 which produces approximately 50,000 Coho fry annually. Their hatchery and ongoing Coho marking programs promote and support an important fish producing watershed which in turn supports local sports fishery activities and in-stream assessments. Staff have reached out to the group in order to ascertain the nature of their tenure on each of these privately-owned properties and to also obtain further details on the works to be undertaken including the total costs for these projects and whether other sources of funding have been secured or could be leveraged.